

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 2, 2020

Jeffrey Zients
Coronavirus Response Coordinator
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Zients,

First, we wish to thank you for your leadership as our nation endures the coronavirus pandemic. This Administration has bolstered our national response to COVID-19 and set the country on a path to finally contain and defeat the virus. As the Representatives who collectively represent some of our nation's largest cities, we look forward to working with you as federal relief efforts continue.

We write today to bring your attention to an issue that is affecting several large cities across our country. Our cities, unlike many others, receive vaccine allocations directly rather than through State or county distribution. Throughout the initial phases of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, the supply of available doses has not met the demand, particularly for high-risk and other priority populations. Compounding this problem is the fact that the large cities we represent host large, daytime non-resident populations. It has been brought to our attention that a significant number of vaccines allocated to our city are being administered to non-residents.

We all share the goal of vaccinating as many Americans as we can as quickly as possible, but we are concerned that the current population-based formula used to determine vaccine allocations is creating a vaccine deficit that disproportionately impacts the cities we represent: Philadelphia, Chicago, and New York City.

It has been suggested to us that the current allocation formula does not adequately account for the rate at which our cities vaccinate non-resident workers. In our districts, thousands of non-resident workers are employed in a variety of industries that qualify them for priority vaccination. During the initial phases of the vaccine rollout, in addition to our residential population, many non-residents who work in our cities were also vaccinated. We most certainly support vaccinating our frontline workers, but our allocations do not provide enough supply for our cities to then also vaccinate our resident populations. It is our most vulnerable residents who are often left out.

In Philadelphia, over half of vaccines have been given to nonresidents. In Chicago, more than one out of every three vaccines have gone to nonresidents, and in New York City, around one out of every four vaccines have been given to nonresidents. This, unfortunately, highlights an

inadequacy in the current vaccine allocation formula. Our cities should receive enough vaccines to ensure we can properly vaccinate our resident populations while also accounting for our nonresident workforce.

It is our understanding that our cities receive vaccine allocation based on our full-time residential populations rather than our daytime populations, which are notably larger by including non-resident workers. This would be far more reflective of our overall vaccine needs. We want to have enough vaccines for all our residents and all our workers.

As our cities move toward future vaccine rollout phases that include more essential workers, many of whom will inevitably live outside the cities in which they are employed, we ask that the White House and the CDC consider updating the vaccine allocation formula to adequately account for larger cities that host large, daytime non-resident worker populations. A formula that more accurately captures the circumstances of large cities like Philadelphia, Chicago, and New York City would ensure that as we vaccinate frontline workers and other essential personnel, we are not jeopardizing vaccine supplies for our full-time residents.

We thank you for considering this request, and we look forward to discussing our concerns with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Robin Kelly
Member of Congress